



# *Success Stories*

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*January 1997*

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## ***Northport Apartments Madison, Wisconsin***

The center at Northport opened its doors in March 1996. Start-up costs were financed by residual receipts. The center offers a variety of programs for child and adult education as well as business development. To support its activities, the center has seven Pentium multimedia PCs and seven Power Macs. Two of the PCs and two of the Macs have access to the Internet.

As a result of training received in the center, nine residents are working in the management office of American Baptist Homes, managing the housing complex and the center. Seven residents have gotten positions in the community doing office work, data entry, and working as a teacher's assistant. Five residents were hired to run the Head Start program and day care center located on the property. One resident was hired by the Madison Metropolitan School District as a teacher's assistant in computer labs. In addition, the apartment complex enjoys the lowest absentee rate among school-age children in Madison.

Many partners have been instrumental in the center's success. The Madison Police Department conducts Internet training sessions at the center with resident teens as part of its Cops and Kids on Computers

program. The Madison Metropolitan School District is using the center as a training facility for teachers; in exchange, the teachers train residents in various software programs. The Madison Area Technical College offers GED classes. Other partners include the University of Wisconsin/Madison, the Community Action Coalition, and the Briarpatch Counseling Center.

For further information, contact Carmen Porco at 608-255-2759.

## ***Crescent Park Apartments Richmond, California***

The center at Crescent Park opened its doors in February 1996. Start-up costs were financed by a drug elimination grant. The center offers a variety of programs including math and reading enrichment, word processing, and basic computer skills. To support its activities, the center has four multimedia Pentium PCs--all of which have access to the Internet.

As a result of training received in the center, one resident has found work as a paralegal and four others have obtained entry-level office positions that require computer skills.

Several partners have been instrumental in the center's success. The Richmond Police

Activities League provides Internet access and support. The Tides Foundation funds a peer advocate position in the center. The peer advocate offers education and employment counseling and conducts computer classes. In addition, the center is working with Volt Temporary to tailor training to meet the needs of local employers.

For further information, contact Leonard McNeil at 510-215-1785.

***Shelter Hill Apartments  
Mill Valley, California***

The center at Shelter Hill opened its doors in August 1996. Start-up costs were financed by the Nathan Cummings Foundation, Pacific Bell, and the Interfaith Housing Foundation. The center offers a variety of programs including afterschool activities, typing, and computer repair, building, and configuration. To support its activities, the center has nine 486 PCs--all of which have access to the Internet.

Two residents have paid positions to support center activities, and WebStarr will pay resident youth to participate in their advanced computer training program. The residents of Shelter Hill are unique in that they see their community as an economic enterprise and are wiring every apartment unit to the Internet so that businesses can bring their work to them.

Several partners have been instrumental in the center's success. The Marin Computer Resource Center provides an instructor to teach computer repair. Marin County's MIDAS (Marin Information Data Access System) program provides residents with Internet access. Pacific Telesis covered the cost for frame relay switches, which permit the rapid transfer of data and enable

residents to telecommute.

For further information, contact Kerry Pierson at 415-389-9239.

***Friendship Village  
Virginia Beach, Virginia***

The center at Friendship Village opened its doors in July 1996. Start-up costs were financed by a number of community partners. The center offers a variety of programs including tutorial programs for students and Internet training. To support its activities, the center has 3 Pentium PCs--all of which have access to the Internet. In addition, the center has two 486 PCs and eight 286 PCs.

The center has unique partnerships with two prominent federal agencies: NASA and the FBI. NASA's Affordable Technology to Link America's Schools (ATLAS) initiative provides the center with a means of storing information from the Internet, thereby eliminating the need for faster, more expensive Internet hook-ups. Members of the Norfolk office of the FBI taught residents how to use the computers and software during initial training sessions. Other partners include Old Dominion University and WHRO-TV.

For further information, contact Henry Colonna at 804-278-4521 (x3027).

***Le Club  
Lancaster, California***

The center at Le Club opened its doors in August 1996. Start-up costs were financed from residual receipts and reserve for replacement accounts. The center offers a variety of programs including life and job skills, youth tutoring, and basic computer training. To support its activities, the center has 13 Pentium PCs and 6 386 PCs. Two of

the Pentiums have access to the Internet.

The center at Le Club is part of a consortium of five properties in Lancaster owned by Monfric, Inc. All five properties have access to the center. As a result of training received in the center, residents have better self-esteem and are entering mainstream society. Six residents are working in retail, clerical, and customer service positions--all requiring basic computer skills. Four residents have begun vocational training or community college.

Several partners have been instrumental in the center's success. Lancaster Factory Stores offers onsite training in customer service and sales positions. Taylor Made Office Systems donated a copier. The City of Lancaster is helping the center find sources of funding. The City of Palm Dale is helping the center design its training to fit the local workforce.

For further information, contact Bob Christiansen at 805-940-9530.